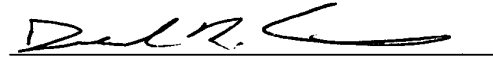


finality of the Office Action of December 16, 2002. Therefore, in the interest of creating a clear and complete prosecution history and in accordance with MPEP 706.07(f), Applicants respectfully request that the Advisory Action and the finality of the Office Action of December 16, 2002 be withdrawn, a new non-final Office Action be issued with a discussion of the applicability of any newly cited references, and Applicants be given adequate time to analyze the rejection and any newly applied references, and to respond to the Office Action properly.

Respectfully submitted,



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